SUETONIUS, *DE GRAMMATICIS* 13.1

L. Staberius Eros, †nametra† emptus de catasta et propter litterarum studium manumissus, docuit inter ceteros Brutum et Cassium.

nametra X: *nametra et (h)ero suo* Metre Y: *suomet aere* Roth: *nam erat* Vahlen: *<libertinus> – nam erat* Robinson: *natione Trax* Funaioli: *nomine, Trax* Brugnoli: *natus in Syria* Della Corte: *Ναμέρτης* aut *Νημερτὴς* Verdière: *natione Syrus* Viljamaa: *a Metra* Murgia apud Kaster

So prints Kaster in the now standard text of this start to one of the shortest biographies in Suetonius' *Grammarians*, that of Staberius Eros.[1] The corruption *nametra* in the manuscripts is puzzling, and has attracted several conjectures from the mid nineteenth century onwards.[2] Funaioli's *natione Trax* (*GRF* 1.106) is the most tempting to Kaster, who supports it by comparing Suetonius' typical practice of beginning with the subject's origin.[3] Funaioli's conjecture has been influential. For example, Wallace-Hadrill seems at least partly to accept it: 'one point which Suetonius' biographies illustrate is the parallel movement in the first century BC by which Latin-speaking slaves were trained up as teachers … Slaves of eastern origin indeed could learn Latin if caught early enough. Staberius Eros was a Thracian bought as a boy from the slaver's stand'.[4] However, Kaster could not at last bring himself to adopt *natione Trax* and is not alone in leaving the corrupt text exactly as it is.[5] I propose that we should instead read Vahlen's conjecture *nam erat*, which was accepted by Robinson – although he did so only with an alleged omission of *libertinus* in order to maintain the logic of the *nam*-clause.[6] It is for this reason that Kaster rejects the reading: 'I would be reluctant to posit the omission that *nam erat* entails'.[7]

[1] R.A. Kaster (ed.), *C. Suetonius Tranquillus: De grammaticis et rhetoribus* (Oxford, 1995), with my own expansion of the apparatus criticus. I use Kaster's text in the rest of this note, as well as that of G. Brugnoli and F. Stok (Rome, 1997) for Suetonius' *Virgil*, and that of M. Ihm (Leipzig, 1908) for his *Caesars*. I am grateful to *CQ*'s editor Bruce Gibson for some helpful suggestions on this note. All translations are my own.

[2] Canvassed in R.A. Kaster, *Studies on the Text of Suetonius De grammaticis et rhetoribus* (Atlanta, 1992), 80–7. See also M.-C. Vacher (ed.), *Suétone: Grammairiens et rhéteurs* (Paris, 1993), 128–9.

[3] See Kaster (n. 2), 84, citing e.g. *Gram*. 8.1: *M. Pompilius Andronicus, natione Syrus*; 20.1: *C. Iulius Hyginus, Augusti libertus, natione Hispanus*. On Brugnoli's implausible alteration of Funaioli (in my apparatus above), see Kaster (n. 2), 83–4. Against the conjectures of Roth and Murgia, the former accepted in Rolfe's Loeb edition, see ibid. 83 and 86 respectively; for Verdière's unconvincing conjecture of a Greek cognomen Namertes or Nemertes, see Vacher (n. 2), 129. Some scholars have found Della Corte's *natus in Syria* appealing; see e.g. K. Quinn, 'The poet and his audience in the Augustan age', *ANRW* 2.30.1 (1982), 75–180, at 133–4; T. Viljamaa, 'Suetonius on Roman teachers of grammar', *ANRW* 2.33.5 (1991), 3826–51, at 3836. However, Della Corte's conjecture is unfounded; see Kaster (n. 2), 85–6 and below, n. 15.

[4] A. Wallace-Hadrill, *Suetonius: The Scholar and his Caesars* (London, 1983), 34; cf. also K.R. Bradley, *Slaves and Masters in the Roman World: A Study in Social Control* (Oxford, 1987), 103.

[5] Cf. the Budé edition of Vacher (n. 2).

[6] Vahlen's conjecture was discovered written below *nametra* in a copy of Reifferscheid's 1860 edition of Suetonius' fragmentary works; see R.P. Robinson, *De fragmenti Suetoniani De grammaticis et rhetoribus codicum nexu et fide* (Urbana, IL, 1920), 85. On Suetonius' use of *nam* in its explanatory sense, see Kaster (n. 2), 48–9.

[7] Kaster (n. 2), 83.

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However, an omitted *libertinus* may be unnecessary to Vahlen's conjecture, if a new logic in the sentence is understood. Kaster points out that 'Eros' was one of the most common names for a slave at Rome, and was probably imposed on Staberius when he was a slave.[8] If Suetonius believed this name implied that Staberius was a slave, he may have felt compelled to explain how the grammarian *docuit inter ceteros Brutum et Cassium*, for only as a public teacher could he have gained such important students as Brutus and Cassius; he was therefore already a freedman by the mid 70s B.C.[9] Brugnoli points out several examples of Suetonius' omission of any indication of social class where the grammarian's or rhetorician's freeborn status is clear from his name (*Gram*. 9.1, 14.1, 22.1, 24.1, 28.1, 29.1, 30.1);[10] the reverse may be the case here, where the grammarian's status as an ex-slave is already pronounced in the same way.[11] To the restored text *L. Staberius Eros – nam erat emptus de catasta et propter litterarum studium manumissus – docuit inter ceteros Brutum et Cassium* ('Lucius Staberius Eros – for he was bought at auction and set free on account of his zeal for literature – taught among others Brutus and Cassius'), a passage in Suetonius' *Vita Vergili* offers a fitting parallel, where *nam* anticipates the main clause to follow: *Augustus uero, nam forte expeditione Cantabrica aberat, supplicibus atque etiam minacibus per iocum litteris efflagitaret …* (*Vita Verg*. 31: 'Augustus in fact, for he happened to be away on a Cantabrian expedition, demanded with entreaties and even threats jokingly in letters …').[12] Such brevity is a regular feature of Suetonius' style.[13]

In conclusion, we should reject the conjectures of Funaioli and Della Corte and accept Vahlen's *nam erat*, where the whole *nam*-clause functions as a gloss on the name *Eros*, which otherwise would imply that Staberius was a slave. This is the reading closest to the manuscripts and also suits Suetonius' general stylistic practice as much as beginning with an explicit statement of the subject's *patria*, which was occasionally unknown for his grammarians and rhetoricians.[14] A Thracian or Syrian

[8] Kaster (n. 1), 165, citing H. Solin, *Die griechischen Personennamen in Rom: Ein Namenbuch*, 3 vols (Berlin, 1982), 328–37 (s.v. 'Eros') and 1361 (s.v. 'Erotianus'). See now also id., 'Griechische und römische Sklavennamen. Eine vergleichende Untersuchung', in H. Bellen and H. Heinen (edd.), *Fünfzig Jahre Forschungen zur antiken Sklaverei an der Mainzer Akademie, 1950–2000: Miscellanea zum Jubilaeum* (Stuttgart, 2001), 307–30, at 312, 316.

[9] For this last point, see Kaster (n. 1), 166.

[10] G. Brugnoli, 'Suetoniana I: *De grammaticis et rhetoribus*', *AFLC* 28 (1960), 337–61, at 355–6 (= id., *Studi Suetoniani* [Lecce, 1968], 119–20); cf. Kaster (n. 1), 222.

[11] cf. Laelius Herma at *Gram*. 10.3 and 10.5, with Kaster (n. 1), 142.

[12] To this explanatory, yet anticipatory, use of *nam*, we might equally compare Suetonius on the rhetorician Plotius Gallus: *hunc eundem – nam diutissime uixit – M. Caelius in oratione quam pro se de ui habuit significat dictasse Atratino accusatori suo actionem* (*Gramm*. 26.2: 'This same man – for he lived a very long time – Marcus Caelius indicates in a speech, which he gave defending himself on a charge of violence, wrote the action for his prosecutor Atratinus'). Cf. also *Tib*. 1.1, using the postpositive *enim* to clarify social status in the opening of a *Life* in a similar way: *patricia gens Claudia – fuit enim et alia plebeia, nec potentia minor nec dignitate – orta est ex Regillis oppido Sabinorum* ('The patrician branch of the Claudii – for there was also another plebeian one, of no less power or prestige – arose from the Sabines' town of Regilli'); with *Gram*. 22.1; *Iul*. 24.2; *Aug*. 35.1, 76.1, 99.2; *Tib*. 13.1; *Calig*. 4, 8.4, 26.1; *Galb*. 3.3, 19.1; *Vit*. 17.1; *Dom*. 11.3.

[13] On the brevity of Suetonius' style, see G.W. Mooney (ed.), *C. Suetoni Tranquilli De Vita Caesarum libri VII–VIII: Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Divus Vespasianus, Divus Titus, Domitianus* (Dublin, 1930), 634–6.

[14] B. Baldwin, *Suetonius* (Amsterdam, 1983), 434 points to Curtius Nicias (*Gram*. 14.1–4) as odd in this regard, but see also Sevius Nicanor (5.1–2), Lenaeus (15.1–3), Verrius Flaccus (17.1–3), Scribonius Aphrodisius (19.1–2) and Pomponius Porcellus (22.1–3); cf. also subjects

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origin is therefore no likelier for Staberius than any other. Pliny the Elder also appears not to have known the grammarian's origin, since he records only that of his shipmates, Publilius and Manilius, who were Syrians (*HN* 35.199);[15] Suetonius knew this at least about Publilius, of whom he wrote a lost *Life* that has been scantily preserved in a fragment of Jerome (*Publilius mimographus natione Syrus Romae scenam tenet*, *Chron*. Ol. 184.2 = Suet. fr. 26 Reiff.). Suetonius does not seem to have had any such information on Staberius.

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tristan.power@gmail.com
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whose origins are not explicitly stated, but may be suggested already by their names: Aurelius Opillus (*Gram*. 6.1), Cornelius Epicadus (12.1), Plotius Gallus (26.1) and Otacilius Pitholaus (27.1–2), with Kaster (n. 1), 111–12, 162, 292 and 299 respectively.

[15] Baldwin (n. 13), 433–4 argued for the dependence of *Gram*. 13.1 on Plin. *HN* 35.199–200, but a common source may be more probable; see Kaster (n. 1), 344–5. On the interpretation of Pliny's passage, which does not imply that Staberius too was Syrian, see ibid. 167; cf. above, n. 3.

PARTIAL ANDROGEN INSENSITIVITY SYNDROME (REIFENSTEIN'S SYNDROME) IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Partial Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (PAIS) is a rare endocrine dysfunction affecting male children, and has had numerous different appellations, the most commonly known being Reifenstein's Syndrome. In cases of PAIS male children are born with defects in the amino-acid structure of the androgen receptor. Androgens, such as testosterone, are the male hormones that are responsible for the development of male sexual characteristics in the developing child. Androgens are produced and released into the blood stream as normal in cases of PAIS, but they have no effect on the child's development. Male humans produce both male and female hormones and production of both increases greatly during puberty. Where the male hormone receptor is defective, as in PAIS, only the female hormones take effect and feminization occurs with the onset of puberty.[1]

[1] G.M. Besser and M.O. Thorner, *Clinical Endocrinology* (London, 1994[2]), 11.13–18; L.J. De Groot (ed.), *Endocrinology* (Philadelphia, 1995[3]), 2239–40; A. Levy and S.L. Lightman, *Endocrinology* (Oxford, 1997), 213–20; J.A.H. Wass and S.M. Shulet, *Oxford Textbook of Endocrinology and Diabetes* (Oxford, 2002), 978–9; P.R. Larson, H.M. Kronenberg, S. Melmet and K.S. Polansky, *Williams Textbook of Endocrinology* (Philadelphia, PA, 2008[11]), 672; R. Werner '46,XY disorders of sex development – the undermasculinised male with disorders of androgen action', *Best Practice and Research Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* 24 (2010), 263–77, at 265–6.

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